

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A coin stacking apparatus comprising:
a coin passage for guiding coins, in a row, in a direction of a diameter of the coins;
a conveying mechanism for conveying the coins along said coin passage;
a coin stacking section corresponding to an end portion of said coin passage;
a coin feeding member for sequentially stacking the coins, after having been conveyed by said conveying mechanism, in said coin stacking section in a stacking direction that generally corresponds to a thickness direction of the coins, said coin feeding member having a contact portion protruding into said coin stacking section, and said coin feeding member being configured to rotate with said contact portion contacting a conveyed coin so as to cause the conveyed coin to pass over said contact portion from an upstream side to a downstream side thereof with respect to a direction of rotation of said coin feeding member and thereby cause a trailing edge of the conveyed coin to be displaced in the stacking direction so that a leading edge of a subsequently conveyed coin is capable of entering between the conveyed coin and said contact portion upon rotation of said coin feeding member while said contact portion is in contact with the subsequently conveyed coin; and
a stopping member on the downstream side of said contact portion, said stopping member having a stop surface for contacting a leading edge of the conveyed coin after the conveyed coin has passed over said contact portion,
wherein a distance between an axis of rotation of said coin feeding member and said stop surface is adjustable in accordance with the diameter of the coins, and
wherein a position of said coin feeding member relative to said coin passage is adjustable in horizontally longitudinal and lateral directions of said coin passage in accordance with the diameter of the coins.

13. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the position of said coin feeding member relative to said coin passage is adjustable in longitudinal and lateral directions of said coin passage, in accordance with the diameter of the coins, by being simultaneously adjustable in the longitudinal and lateral directions of said coin passage.

14. (Currently Amended) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said coin feeding member is for sequentially stacking the coins substantially vertically upward in said coin stacking section, and further comprising:

a coin presser mechanism for ~~always~~ downwardly pressing, by dead weight, an upper surface of an uppermost one of the coins when stacked in said coin stacking section, said coin presser mechanism including a presser member movable in the stacking direction while contacting the upper surface of the uppermost one of the coins, and also including a weight member connected to said presser member via an elastic member.

15. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said coin feeding member has a cylindrical friction surface as said contact portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said coin feeding member comprises a toothed roller having circumferentially arranged tooth portions as said contact portion, with each of said tooth portions including:

- (i) a push surface for being pressed by a leading edge of the conveyed coin; and
- (ii) a lifting surface for lifting a trailing edge of the conveyed coin when fed into said coin stacking section.

17. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said coin feeding member has a cylindrical friction surface as said contact portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said coin feeding member comprises a toothed roller having circumferentially arranged tooth portions as said contact portion, with each of said tooth portions including:

- (i) a push surface for being pressed by a leading edge of the conveyed coin; and
- (ii) a lifting surface for lifting a trailing edge of the conveyed coin when fed into said coin stacking section.

19. (Currently Amended) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said coin feeding member is for sequentially stacking the coins substantially vertically upward in said coin stacking section, and further comprising:

a coin presser mechanism for ~~always~~ downwardly pressing, by dead weight, an upper surface of an uppermost one of the coins when stacked in said stacking section, said coin presser mechanism including a presser member movable in the coin stacking direction while contacting the upper surface of the uppermost one of the coins, and also including a weight member connected to said presser member via an elastic member.

20. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said coin feeding member has a cylindrical friction surface as said contact portion.

21. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said coin feeding member comprises a toothed roller having circumferentially arranged tooth portions as said contact portion, with each of said tooth portions including:

- (i) a push surface for being pressed by a leading edge of the conveyed coin; and
- (ii) a lifting surface for lifting a trailing edge of the conveyed coin when fed into said coin stacking section.

22. (Currently Amended) A coin stacking apparatus comprising:
a coin passage for guiding coins, in a row, in a direction of a diameter of the coins;

a conveying mechanism for conveying the coins along said coin passage;
a coin stacking section corresponding to an end portion of said coin passage;
a coin feeding member for sequentially stacking the coins, after having been conveyed by said conveying mechanism, in said coin stacking section substantially vertically upwardly in a stacking direction that generally corresponds to a thickness direction of the coins, said coin feeding member having a contact portion protruding into said coin stacking section, and said coin feeding member being configured to rotate with said contact portion contacting a conveyed coin so as to cause the conveyed coin to pass over said contact portion from an upstream side to a downstream side thereof with respect to a direction of rotation of said coin feeding member and thereby cause a trailing edge of the conveyed coin to be displaced in the stacking direction so that a leading edge of a subsequently conveyed coin is capable of entering between the conveyed coin and said contact portion upon rotation of said coin feeding member while said contact portion is in contact with the subsequently conveyed coin; and
a coin presser mechanism for ~~always~~ downwardly pressing, only by dead weight, an upper surface of an uppermost one of the coins when stacked in said coin stacking section while conveyed coins are sequentially stacked therein.

23. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said coin presser mechanism includes a presser member movable in the stacking direction while contacting the upper surface of the uppermost one of the coins, and also including a weight member connected to said presser member via an elastic member.

24. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 23, wherein a position of said coin feeding member with respect to said coin passage is adjustable in accordance with the diameter of the coins.

25. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said coin feeding member has a cylindrical friction surface as said contact portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said coin feeding member comprises a toothed roller having circumferentially arranged tooth portions as said contact portion, with each of said tooth portions including:

- (i) a push surface for being pressed by a leading edge of the conveyed coin; and
- (ii) a lifting surface for lifting a trailing edge of the conveyed coin when fed into said coin stacking section.

27. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a position of said coin feeding member with respect to said coin passage is adjustable in accordance with the diameter of the coins.

28. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said coin feeding member has a cylindrical friction surface as said contact portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said coin feeding member comprises a toothed roller having circumferentially arranged tooth portions as said contact portion, with each of said tooth portions including:

- (i) a push surface for being pressed by a leading edge of the conveyed coin; and
- (ii) a lifting surface for lifting a trailing edge of the conveyed coin when fed into said coin stacking section.

30. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said coin feeding member has a cylindrical friction surface as said contact portion.

31. (Previously Presented) The coin stacking apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said coin feeding member comprises a toothed roller having circumferentially arranged tooth portions as said contact portion, with each of said tooth portions including:

- (i) a push surface for being pressed by a leading edge of the conveyed coin; and

(ii) a lifting surface for lifting a trailing edge of the conveyed coin when fed into said coin stacking section.